

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 21 2007

Yoshinobu SAITO et al.
37808-0011
September 21, 2007
Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

1-14. (Previously cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An ion pair surfactant in which a protonated form of an N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and an alkali salt of an amino acid are blended in a ratio of between 1.0 to 1.6 equivalents of the alkali salt of the amino acid relative to the protonated acylamino acid, and neutralized to form an ion pair having a pH of 5 to 9.

16. (Currently Amended) A surfactant according to claim 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acidic amino acids and neutral amino acids, wherein the amount of alkali in the surfactant is between 1.4 to 2 equivalents relative to the amino acid, if an acidic amino acid, and is between 1.0 to 1.4 equivalents relative to the amino acid if a neutral amino acid.

17. A surfactant according to claim 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from α -amino acids.

18. A surfactant according to claim 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxyproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycyglycine.

19. A surfactant according to claim 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group

Yoshinobu SAITO et al.
37808-0011
September 21, 2007
Page 3

consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycyglycine.

20. (Currently Amended) An ion pair surfactant salt of a protonated form of an N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid cation and an amino acid anion that are blended in a ratio of between 1.0 to 1.6 equivalents of the alkali salt of the amino acid relative to the protonated acylamino acid, and neutralized to a pH of 5 to 9.

21. (Previously Presented) A surfactant salt according to claim 20, wherein the amino acid anion is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxylproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycyglycine.

22. (Previously Presented) A surfactant salt according to claim 20, wherein the amino acid anion is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycyglycine.

23. (Previously Presented) An emulsion comprising a surfactant salt according to claim 15, wherein the surfactant salt is 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion.

24. (New) An emulsion composition that contains an essential surfactant as described in claim 15 between 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion, as an emulsifier of water, and oil components.